

Message Text

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43

ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 IOE-00 EB-07 COME-00 AGR-05

SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 AID-05 FRB-03 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 CIEP-01

LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 /100 W
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FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4804

INFO USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 2097

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS PRIORITY

USMISSION OECD PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

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ROME FOR FODAG

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UN, ECOSOC, EGEN

SUBJECT: 59TH ECOSOC: ITEM NO. 17, FOOD PROBLEMS

REFERENCE: STATE 170360

BEGIN SUMMARY. POLICY AND PROGRAM COORDINATION COMMITTEE BE-
GAN DEBATE SUBJECT ITEM P.M., JULY 21. END SUMMARY.

1. WFC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, HANNAH GAVE BALANCED, FACTUAL BUT
BASICALLY UPBEAT REPORT ON RESULTS OF WORLD FOOD COUNCIL'S
FIRST SESSION ENDING WITH STIRRING PERSONAL APPEAL FOR
INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION TO SOLVE PROBLEMS OF STARVATION
AND MALNOURISHMENT. HE EXPLAINED THAT DIFFICULTIES EXPERIENCED IN
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ROME WERE LARGELY DUE TO FACT SECRETARIAT WAS SMALL AND OPERATING

ON SHOESTRING. TEXT BEING POUCHED.

2. MOST SIGNIFICANT REACTION OF INTERVENTIONS MADE SO FAR CAME FROM GUINEAN AMBASSADOR (REPORT ON INTERVENTIONS BY NETHERLANDS AND DENMARK BEING SENT SEPTTEL) WHO BEGAN AND CLOSED HIS STATEMENT BY WARMLY CONGRATULATING HANNAH ON WFC REPORT, THE SPEED WITH WHICH SECRETARIAT HAD PRODUCED IT AND FOR HANNAH'S EXPLANATIONS OF REASONS FOR DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED IN ROME. GUINEAN DEL SAID THAT SINCE GUINEA HAD BEEN ONE OF COUNTRIES WHICH HAD VIOLENTLY ATTACKED SECRETARIAT IN ROME, HE WAS PLEASED ON PRESENT OCCASION TO BE ABLE TO VOICE GUINEA'S APPROVAL OF SECRETARIAT'S WORK. HE EXPRESSED PARTICULAR SATISFACTION WITH HANNAH'S EXPLANATIONS REGARDING THE DIFFICULTIES EXPERIENCED IN ROME AND SAID REASONS GIVEN BY HANNAH TODAY WHICH WERE ACCEPTABLE WERE NOT SAME AS THOSE PROVIDED BY SECRETARIAT TO WFC DELS IN ROME.

3. ON SUBSTANTIVE SUDE, GUINEA SAID WFC MEETING HAD SHOWN THAT THERE WAS NOT MUCH HOPE FOR URGENT ACTION ON FOOD PROBLEMS AND THIS IS REASON WHY LDCS FEEL PESSIMISM AND SENSE OF MALAISE WHICH WON'T BE DISSIPATED BY PROMISES BUT ONLY BY CONCRETE ACTIONS. HE SAID FOOD AID, EVIDENTLY, IS NOT SOMETHING FOR TODAY (ALLUDING IN THIS CONTEXT TO PROSPECTIVE GRAIN PURCHASE BY USSR FROM US) AND THAT FOR THIS REASON TOP PRIORITY MUST BE GIVEN TO ASSISTING LDCS IN INCREASING THEIR OWN FOOD PRODUCTION. HE SAID EARLY ESTABLISHMENT OF IFAD WAS ESSENTIAL IN THIS CONTEXT AND THAT IFADS CREATION MUST BE WFCS PRIORITY CONCERN. HE SAID ENERGY PRODUCER ATTITUDES ON THIS ISSUE ARE GOOD AND THAT ACTION NOW NEEDED BY DEVELOPED COUNTRIES. HE CONCLUDED BY NOTING THAT ROLE OF WFC MUST BE ESSENTIALLY POLITICAL AND LDCS CAN ONLY BE EFFECTIVE IN COUNCIL IF THEY MARSHALL THEIR POLITICAL FORCES. WITH REGARD TO COUNCIL'S ROLE TOWARD FAO AND OTHER UN AGENCIES, HE SAID PROPER FUNCTION OF COUNCIL WAS TO PROVIDE POLITICAL SUPPORT TO ESTABLISHED UN AGENCIES.

4. COMMENT: GUINEAN ATTITUDE ON HANNAH AND SECRETARIAT INDICATES THAT LDCS, EXCEPT POSSIBLY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FOR MEXICO, WILL TAKE MODERATE LINE ON ISSUE. AT END OF INTERVENTION, AMB FERGUSON CONGRATULATED GUINEA REP ON MATURITY AND RESPONSIBILITY OF HIS INTERVENTION AS WELL AS ELOQUENCE OF STATEMENT.DALE

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